

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the application as set forth in the marked-up version of the paragraphs identified below:

[0122] After counting the cells in hemocytometer, the peritoneal cells were diluted to ~~1x10⁷~~ 1x10⁷ cells in RPMI 1640 medium (Sigma) with 5% fetal calf serum (Hyclone, Logan, Utah, USA).

[0146] Individual wells were emptied by aspiration and washed 3 times with over 300 ~~μl/well~~ μl/well of wash buffer (also provided in the kit).

[0147] Reaction was blocked with 200 ~~μl/well~~ μl/well of assay dilutant diluent (also provided in the kit) and by incubation for 60 minutes at room temperature.

[0148] Again, individual wells were emptied by aspiration and washed 3 times with over 300 ~~μl/well~~ μl/well of the same wash buffer.

[0155] The values obtained are collected in Table 5.

TABLE 5

Concentration of TNF alpha in pg/ml of blood of treated mice after
different durations of treatment

	30 min	60 min	90 min
Laminaritetraose	55.7	103.0	35.3
50 μmg/mouse			
Laminaritetraose	34.3	37.0	71.3
50 μmg/mouse			
Lentinan	20	15.7	32.0
50 μmg/mouse			
Laminaritetraose	39.0	18.4	13.6
100 μmg/mouse			
Laminaritetraose	53.0	46.5	93.2
100 μmg/mouse			
Lentinan	28	30.7	20.3
100 μmg/mouse			
Laminaritetraose	27.3	152.3	11.1
250 μmg/mouse			
Laminaritetraose	42.1	36.4	24.4
250 μmg/mouse			
Lentinan	86.3	68.7	48.6
250 μmg/mouse			

[0156] FIGS. 5, 6 and 7 are graphs representing the variation of the concentration expressed in pm/ml of TNF-alpha in the blood of the experimental mice as a function of the duration t, expressed in minutes of the action of Laminaritetraose, Laminaripentaose and Lentinan, respectively at dosage of 50 μmg /mouse, 100 μmg /mouse and 250 μmg /mouse.

[0158] The same experiments as those described above are carried out with 250 μmg /mouse of Laminarin, Laminaritetraose and Laminaripentaose, and the measures were performed after 24 and 48 hours.

[0161] Those results show that Laminaripentaose is more active than Laminaritetraose. Both oligo-.beta.-(1,3)-glucans are effective in large intervalle_(-24 and 48h).